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NAZIS FLEE ALONG ROAD TO ROME

RETREATS NORTH TO NEW DEFENSE LINES UNDERWAY

Allies Capture Vital Rail Link; Many Towns Taken — German Line Bends.

Allied Headquarters, Algiers, Oct. 16.—(U.P.)—German forces were in retreat along the roads to Rome tonight before a mounting Allied offensive and front dispatches indicated the Nazis were headed for a new prepared defense line along the Garigliano river 80 miles south of the eternal city.

(Berlin radio acknowledged retreats north of the Volturno river and in the center of the trans-Italy line around Campobasso. A British radio report said there were signs of a hurried withdrawal in some sectors.

Berlin Admits Loss (Berlin said the retreat had been forced by "superior" American and British tanks and infantry forces. It acknowledged the loss of Vinchiato and Campobasso, on the Naples-Termini highway, and said their forces had fallen back into apennine mountain positions apparently in the vicinity of Bojano on a winding mountain road leading northward toward Rome.)

Town after town fell to the pounding Allied offensive, among them Campobasso and Vinchiato on the main lateral supply route across the peninsula. Near Vinchiato the road joins another route turning northward which may carry the weight of the Allied advance.

The enemy was disengaging only after the bitterest rear-guard struggles, the front reports showed, evidently attempting to hold up while his main forces fall back across the Giugliano 15 miles beyond the Volturno in western Italy.

On the center of the line in the mountains the Germans still had the northward curving Volturno as a natural barrier to American troops hammering forward above Benevento.

Clark Storms Ahead Storming ahead in constant attack, Gen. Mark W. Clark's Fifth army forces pushed out one to three miles along a 70-mile front. Campobasso and Vinchiato fell to the British Eighth army.

Campobasso lies 14 miles west of Gambalessa and Vinchiato, 45 miles south-southwest of Termini on the main highway across the Italian peninsula to Naples. A rail line connects the two towns.

Capturing five towns and scoring gains all along a front extending from the west coast to a point about 20 miles inland from Termini on the Adriatic, the Allies were in an excellent position and reporting additional progress daily in bending the German line back toward Rome, less than 100 miles away.

Observers said the loss of Campobasso and Vinchiato was a severe blow to German plans for the defense of Rome. It deprived the enemy of a rail line which he had been using to shift heavy artillery on the central front, and forced him to rely on routes running from Ponte Della Penna, 20 miles above Termini, into the Matese mountain area around Isernia 18 miles behind Campobasso. Isernia has been under frequent Allied air attack.

POPE ASSURED OF NAZI PROTECTION

Wake Island Target of Navy Attacks



Over Wake Island smoke billows up from the Jap airfield after the U. S. Navy attack of Oct. 5-6. In the foreground are remains of an enemy ship beached after being hit in December, 1941, by U. S. Marines defending the base against the invader. Official U. S. Navy photo.

JAP HELD TOWNS HUON PENINSULA GIVEN STRAFING

Allied Headquarters, Southwest Pacific, Sunday, Oct. 17.—(U.P.)—Strong forces of Billy Mitchell and Marauder medium bombers Friday morning raked Japanese-held villages between Sio and Saldor, above Finschhafen on the Huon peninsula in northeastern New Guinea, dropping 35 tons of bombs in the Sio area in a treetop-level attack.

Heavy damage was caused in the bombing and strafing coastal attack. Sio is about 50 miles up the coast from Finschhafen.

Aircobras supporting Australian forces in the Ramu valley bombed and strafed Japanese strongpoints while the ground troops progressed steadily up the Uria and Faria valleys, pressing still closer toward Madang, enemy base on the New Guinea coast 165 miles above Finschhafen.

Forward troops in the sector are now about four miles north-east of Kumburum village, four miles above the Allied base at Dumptu.

Liberator bombers sweeping over enemy bases northwest of Australia raided the oil port of Boela, on the northeastern coast of Ceram Island in the Dutch East Indies, in a Friday morning attack and left fires which were visible for 90 miles, Gen. Douglas MacArthur's communique reported.

NEW ENGLAND IN HURRICANE PATH

Miami, Fla., Oct. 16.—(U.P.)—A large storm with hurricane winds near the center and surrounded by a wide area of dangerous gales was moving northward at 28 to 30 miles per hour with an accelerating speed of movement and will approach the southern New England coast Sunday morning, the federal hurricane warning system reported in a 9:30 p. m. (EWT) advisory.

The center of the storm passed 180 to 200 miles west of Bermuda about 7:30 p. m. (EWT), the advisory said, attended by gales of whole gale force.

Storm warnings are displayed from south of Block Island to Cape Hatteras and a hurricane alert has been called for the New England coastal area, the advisory said.

NAB GERMAN SPY

WILLKIE ATTACK ON FOURTH TERM IMPROVES STOCK

Roosevelt's Spending Record Also Hit—St. Louis Speech Opens Campaign.

Washington, Oct. 17.—(U.P.)—Wendell L. Willkie's free swinging attack on Roosevelt administration foreign and domestic policies and especially on a fourth term, was regarded here tonight as the formal opening of his campaign for the 1944 Republican presidential nomination.

The capital's curbstone judgment is that Willkie boosted his presidential stock in last night's address in St. Louis.

The 1940 G. O. P. standard bearer, ridiculed by New Dealers during that campaign as a "barefoot Wall street lawyer," is the target of more adverse comment from among Republicans than from Democrats now as he gradually organizes his pre-convention strategy. Aside from the bitter feeling of those Republicans who regard Willkie as a "dangerous internationalist," probably the most frequently heard comment on his political activities over the past two years has been that he was failing to make the necessary frontal attack on the Roosevelt administration. In St. Louis last night, Willkie apparently had that in mind. His speech was the groundwork for a sustained pre-convention campaign to attack President Roosevelt's spending record, parts of the administration's labor record and its farm policies.

All of Willkie's St. Louis references to these matters were general and presumably are to be developed in subsequent speeches which his advisers have been assuring all comers for months were in prospect.

Willkie and the Republicans are somewhat in the position now in which Mr. Roosevelt and the Democrats found themselves prior to the 1932 presidential conventions. At that time the Republicans had been in power since the 1920 elections and the "outs" were in a position to criticize over a broad field of operations for which they had little or no responsibility.

Now the Democrats have been in for more than 10 years and the Republicans can and will take the position that the administration is responsible for whatever the voters may feel is wrong with government.

GEN. LIVESAY TO LEAD BLUE ARMY IN SIXTH PHASE

Fourth Corps Headquarters, Oregon Maneuver Area, Oct. 17.—(U.P.)—Regrouped Red and Blue armies moved into new positions along highway 20 tonight to begin the sixth phase of the central Oregon war games.

Reds commander, Brig. Gen. Bryant Moore has ordered his troops to take up positions near Horse Ridge to oppose the Blue army of Maj. Gen. William Livesay, believed to be concentrated along highway 20 somewhere east of Brothers.

Maneuver activity has been limited to minor patrols and no major clash is believed imminent by the commanding general, reports revealed.

Fourth Corps Headquarters, Oregon Maneuver Area, Oct. 17.—(U.P.)—Maj. Gen. Terry Allen, former commander of the "Fighting First" division assumed command of the 104th Timber Wolf division today, succeeding Maj. Gen. Gilbert Cook recently assigned to command a new division.

The announcement came from the headquarters of Maj. Gen. Alexander Patch, director of the Oregon maneuvers.

Stone Wall No Barrier for Tank in Italy



Why go around a Nazi road block when you can go through it? That's what this U. S.-built General Sherman tank does as it rolls through the town of Nicastro, Italy, in pursuit of the enemy. The vehicle, part of the British Eighth Army, was on its way to reunion with the American Fifth Army. Official British photo radioed to New York.

NEW FALL STYLES FOR MEN BRING LONGER SLEEVES

It Will Save Labor—Now Comes a Shortage of Male Shorts.

(By United Press) Men of America, already clowning about in droopy shorts, bagging trousers and sagging socks because of the tight elastic situation, face a new peril of slipping sleeves, furnishing goods buyers reported Saturday.

The new wartime standard-length shirt sleeves, 35 inches long for all, ordered to save labor, are about to make their appearance, or disappearance, up and down men's arms. Shirts formerly came in 32 to 36-inch sleeve lengths.

The man with short arms will get no support from the arm-band manufacturers who haven't had enough elastic to keep up with the demand for months.

The long-armed man who keeps his coat on, seldom will see his cuff unless he has a good wife or seamstress up his sleeve.

A severe shortage of men's shorts, especially in small sizes, was reported. There was plenty of long underwear available most places, but the only men reported returning to that old institution were members of the armed forces or workmen heading for extremely cold spots like the Aleutians.

What shorts there were included a new "scandal" model with elastic only in back. There was no guarantee against slippage.

Suspenders were virtually all made of snap-less ribbon, with the wearer warned against a quick bend-over which might pop a button.

NAZIS TOOK GOLD, RETAIN HOSTAGES

War Bulletins

Mormugao, Portuguese India, Oct. 16.—(U.P.)—(By chartered airplane to U.P. Bombay)—The Swedish liner Gripsholm, laden with Japanese to be exchanged for 1503 Allied nationals already here, docked alongside the Japanese repatriation liner Teia Maru this afternoon.

A single cheer by several hundred Japanese rang out across the water as the Gripsholm, painted white with diagonal stripes in Sweden's colors, and bearing the word "Diplomat" in large black letters on her side was pushed into her berth. The passengers sang lustily as the liner anchored directly below the veranda of the Antigo Palacio hotel.

BLIMPS COLLIDE, CREW OF 8 LOST OFF NEW JERSEY

Long Beach, N. J., Oct. 16.—(U.P.)—Eight officers and men were believed lost in a mid-air collision of two navy blimps off the fog-bound coast of New Jersey today.

One craft, badly damaged, plunged into the surf near Barnegat inlet while the second, slightly damaged, returned to Lakehurst, N. J., naval base.

Harley Charles Hunter, 23, an aviation machinist mate, 2nd class, of Yacolt, Wis., was the only member of the crew rescued. Names of other crew members were withheld by the Fourth naval district until notification of next of kin.

The collision—only the second lighter-than-air craft collision in the history of the navy—came in a fog that Lakehurst naval authorities described as "zero."

The blimp lost was on a military mission while the craft that was able to return was on a training mission. Both were semi-rigid ships, each 250 feet long, used for patrol and training purposes.

When they struck, the training ship received but slight damages with no loss of life or injury to personnel.

SOVIET EMPLOYS TANKS, BAYONETS, MELITOPOL FRAY

Hitler's Stand on Dnieper Penetrated; Nazi Reserves Used at Kiev.

London, Sunday, Oct. 17.—(U.P.) Bayonet-wielding Soviet troops, supported by tanks, killed 2000 more Germans in the "miniature Stalingrad" of Melitopol yesterday while the bloody battle for Kiev raged at an intensified pitch with the Nazi command throwing in ground and air reserves prodigally.

The Germans apparently had decided to make a stand on the Dnieper line, which Adolf Hitler had ordered held at all costs but the Red army resumed its offensive southeast of Kremenchug and smashed through their lines for gains of three to six miles, Moscow's operational and supplementary communiques reported.

Soviet positions were improved north and south of Go-Russian Nazi bastion which Soviet units already had penetrated, and new gains were scored by the Red army forces pushing southward toward the Melitopol from Zaporozhne and skirting the Dnieper marshes.

Melitopol was the scene of the bloodiest fighting since the epic of Stalingrad. Germany continually threw large tank and infantry forces from other sectors into the city, but the Russians routed them from factories, warehouses and even churches as they cleared the city street by street.

"As the result of fierce street fighting, which repeatedly changed to hand-to-hand engagements, our troops cleared a number of streets, killing 2000 Hitlerites," the Moscow midnight bulletin said.

Heavy tank battles were being fought. In the southwestern quarter of Melitopol alone, Moscow announced, 40 German tanks were knocked out of action yesterday.

Indicating that Russia was willing to cooperate with the other Allied nations on war and post-war problems, Ivestia said "if there is agreement on the primary problems brought about by the course of the war it will be easier to decide all other urgent problems. The Hitlerite camp fears the Moscow conference."

PATROL SHIP SUNK

Washington, Oct. 16.—(U.P.)—The 489-ton patrol ship Moonstone was sunk in the Atlantic Friday night as the result of a collision, the navy revealed today. It was the 123rd U. S. naval vessel lost in this war.

ALLIED FLEET OF 500 SHIPS AIDED SALERNO LANDING

Heroic 'Boise' Participated, Report Reveals — Paved Way For Fifth Army.

Allied Headquarters, Algiers, Oct. 16.—(U.P.)—A great fleet of 500 British and American ships, including the heroic American cruiser Boise, veteran of Pacific battles, took part in the battle of the Salerno beachhead when the Allied Fifth army went ashore on Italy, it was disclosed tonight.

Assembled to escort troops and to give the shore a terrific bombardment paving the way for landings, the fleet included five great British battlewagons along with the U. S. cruisers Boise, Philadelphia and Savannah.

This was the first revelation that the 10,000-ton Boise, conqueror of six Japanese warships in the Solomons Islands, was back in heavy action.

Last year she made her way back to the United States with temporary patch-work holding her together after suffering heavy damage in fighting Japanese ships off Guadalcanal. She had been given up for lost. After her return, she was given permanent repairs for her new action against the Germans.

Thirty-seven sizeable American units, including 18 destroyers, and numerous smaller vessels were listed in the report, which said: "Salerno will pass down through history as a triumph for the seamen, both naval and mercantile, of the two great English speaking nations."

SECOND FRONT BY ALLIES HELD KEY TO ALLIED UNITY

Moscow, Oct. 16.—(U.P.)—The Soviet government organ Ivestia, on the eve of the tripartite conference, hinted strongly today that a "second front" in western Europe was necessary to any successful agreement among the Allies on post-war problems.

In an editorial entitled "On the Eve of the Moscow Conference," Ivestia said:

"The solution to post-war problems can only be successful on the condition that everything has been done politically, militarily and economically to bring about a speedy termination of the war... Undoubtedly the problem of decisive shortening of the duration of the war and achievement of victory within the shortest time is organically connected with the problem of opening a second front in western Europe."

Ivestia warned that the Germans were planning to delay the end of the war as long as possible to "create for the Allies difficulties arising from a prolongation of the war." Therefore, it said, the main task of the Allies now was to knock the weapon of time from Adolf Hitler's hands and deal a crushing and decisive defeat to the Nazis.

Indicating that Russia was willing to cooperate with the other Allied nations on war and post-war problems, Ivestia said "if there is agreement on the primary problems brought about by the course of the war it will be easier to decide all other urgent problems. The Hitlerite camp fears the Moscow conference."

A British coal miner weighing 133 pounds has mined enough coal during the past four years to provide the finished steel for the production of one heavy cruiser and two destroyers.